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re-creative. He possesses the rare power to transmute raw materials into a semblance of life that convinces the reader of its fidelity and leaves him satisfied. The reviewer inclines to the belief that we have here "portraits" that nearly approach finality.

HOMER C. HOCKETT

Lee's dispatches. Unpublished letters of General Robert E. Lee, C.S.A. to Jefferson Davis and the war department of the Confederate States of America, 1862-65. From the private collection of Wymberley Jones De Renne of Wormsloe, Georgia. Edited with an introduction by Douglas Southall Freeman. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's sons, 1915. 400 p. \$3.75)

These letters and dispatches, hitherto unpublished, constitute an important addition to the source material available for the study of the civil war. The papers published here number 204 and are of varying importance, though nearly all have some value. The editor states that nothing certain is known of the early history of the collection which in its present form consists of two bound volumes, one of telegrams and one of letters. It was purchased from "a well known Southern writer" by Mr. W. J. De Renne who arranged for the publication. It is Mr. Freeman's opinion that the papers constituted a private file of Jefferson Davis who in some way lost them after he left Richmond. About two-thirds of the collection has been printed elsewhere and is not here reprinted. The editor contributes a first class introduction and extensive notes, thus making the papers of much greater value and rendering it easier to use them. The index is all that can be asked. The editor has done a most creditable work.

In his comprehensive introduction Mr. Freeman calls attention to the main points upon which new information is made available. These are: the proposal in 1862 to reinforce Stonewall Jackson in the valley of Virginia, wage an offensive war against the north, and if necessary, abandon Richmond; the second Manassas campaign as a defensive measure preparatory to a vigorous offensive, which did not develop completely because of lack of supplies and reinforcements; a rather definite statement by General Lee in regard to the failure at Gettysburg; the conscious acceptance of the defensive by General Lee after his return from Pennsylvania; the campaign from the Rapidan to the James; the crossing of the James on June 14, 1864, by General Grant; conditions in the armies under Lee's supervision in 1864-1865; and the relations between General Lee and President Davis.

If General Lee had doubts about the confederate political and military policies, if his relations with President Davis or with his generals were strained, if he wished to make complaints and criticisms — certain-

ly one would expect to find evidence of his dissatisfaction in this confidential correspondence. But there is none of it here. "Until the end there was full coöperation and absolute frankness" between Lee and Davis. As to his military subordinates upon whom judgment must be passed one finds Lee swift to praise them and slow to blame, but frank in withholding recommendation for promotion when he thinks the individual not qualified. "Hood is a bold fighter," he writes, "I am doubtful as to other qualities necessary." Of a close friend he wrote: "Much as I esteem General Pendleton, I could not select him to command a corps in this army." "Colonel Walton's knowledge of artillery, especially its science, must be limited, and I think his knowledge of ground defective and his selections of positions not good." "Longstreet is a capital soldier," he says, but General Huger was absent from his post when the enemy attacked, and General R. H. Anderson, "I am told, is now under a pledge of total abstinence." Of General Elzey he said, "if his health and habits do not interfere, [he] would make a good chief of artillery." By telegraph he requests that General McLaws be not sent to his army but assigned elsewhere. McLaws had had difficulty with Longstreet, and Lee had slight toleration for bickering among his generals. His swift dealing with the case of the eccentric General D. H. Hill illustrates Lee's insistence that his generals must work in harness and must not sulk. The correspondence about the proposed promotion of Colonel O'Neal of Alabama indicates that Lee resented political pressure and refused to respond to it. No one was criticised for the Gettysburg failure, "I am alone to blame in perhaps expecting too much of [the army's] prowess and valor." With the knowledge that he possessed he did not see how he could have done differently.

Lee was in command for three years. The unfavorable criticisms noted above are the most important ones found in these papers. These were really called forth by Davis' request for Lee's opinions in regard to promotion. As a rule he did not say anything unfavorable of anyone; he merely made a positive recommendation of one officer and almost invariably Davis accepted Lee's choice. Of blame for officers who failed we find none. There are no scapegoats, and yet one gets the impression that without much hurt to feelings Lee was continually weeding out incompetents, finding the right places for misfits, and quietly applying discipline where it was needed.

Lee was not on the lookout for slights, impositions, and reflections upon the dignity of his position. His unassuming attitude is remarkable. "Our position requires that you should know everything," he writes to Davis, "and you must excuse my troubling you." What if Joseph E. Johnson had thought likewise? His consideration extended even to the

enemy, for in sending to Davis an interesting letter written by a federal officer which had been found he suggests "as the letter is wholly of a private character that no publicity be given to the name of the writer, though the facts could be made known if you deem fit, for its publication would in all probability injure him without materially benefiting us."

It is interesting to note that Lee was opposed to a restoration of the Society of the Cincinnati, because there would be misunderstanding, because there was no time for such things, and because the citizens and the army were one and distinctions were out of place.

The reviewer has called attention to the more personal aspects of the papers. Those specially interested in the additional information which may be had in regard to such matters as the campaigns of 1864-1865 must be referred to the documents for a closer study than can be suggested here. Suffice it to say that they seem to bear out the editor's claim and to reflect additional credit upon both Grant and Lee.

WALTER L. FLEMING

U. S. Grant. By Lovell Coombs. (True stories of great Americans) (New York: Macmillan company, 1916. 244 p. \$.50)

This is a biography of General Grant for young people. It is well written in an entertaining and lively style. It traces the principal events of Grant's life from his early childhood home on the Ohio farm, through his West Point days, the Mexican war, his rather dreary life at army posts, his retirement from the army and his failures in business, through his notable achievements in the civil war, his life as president and his triumphal tour around the world, to the final days of the "silent man," whom the author pronounces "our nation's greatest general." The hero aspects of the soldier's life are brought to the front, and the noble qualities of courage, modesty, faithfulness, sacrifice, and devotion by which, as boy and man, Grant won success, are given prominence and emphasis. Interesting incidents and personal touches are skillfully interwoven with the historical narrative, from the time "Useless" Grant, when only eleven years of age, rode the trick pony in the circus to the time when the same boy, having resigned from the army, came back penniless from the Pacific coast to his old Ohio home; and to the later time, when this same farmer's boy and the once obscure bankrupt in business, was honored by kings and emperors as one of the great men of the world. The volume is not history so much as it is a story for boys based on the history of a great man's life. The historical critic may raise many objections — that the "true" General Grant is not revealed, that his faults, failures, and shortcomings are concealed and that only